

**LUNENBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, February 3, 2010
Town Hall – 7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

School Committee

David Reif, Chair
Michael Mackin - absent
Jason Poitras - absent
Milree Keeling
Donna White

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Mary Landi

Student Representative

Elizabeth Broden

Guests

Rep. Jennifer Benson

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- * Call to Order – Dr. Reif called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
 - * Chairman's Report
 - * Review and Approve Minutes
 - January 12, 2010 regular session minutes – Approved by Dr. Reif.
 - January 13, 2010 regular session minutes – Approved by Dr. Reif.
 - January 20, 2010 regular session minutes – Approved by Dr. Reif.
 - * Review and Approve Warrants – Superintendent Calmes gave a brief explanation of the line item transfers, which were around sewage disposal and water consumption due to the rate increases. Superintendent Calmes will follow-up with Mr. Londa to see if he had been made aware of the increases prior to receiving the invoices.
 - * Superintendent's Report
 - Representative Jennifer Benson – Superintendent Calmes introduced Representative Benson who was present to give an update on education reform and answer any questions the committee might have for her. Representative Benson talked about the Governor's budget this year, which is not yet definite because the expected revenues have not been voted on. Regional transportation is level funded in the governor's budget. Regional transportation is now tied to Chapter 70 and can not be cut by a higher percentage than Chapter 70. New revenue will (hopefully) replace stimulus money. There is a three billion dollar gap. Local aid figures should be available in early March. The state has had several months of stability, so it should help when looking at the next budget.
 - Achievement Gap legislation – Representative Benson talked about the Achievement Gap legislation, which focuses on the lowest performing ten percent of the Commonwealth. It allows the charter cap to be lifted from 9 to 18 percent in those areas and also allows the schools to be completely changed to allow for positive progress. She gave more examples of what is in the legislation for schools, towns. Charter schools must mirror their sending districts in terms of population type (ELL, SS, etc.). The legislation is available online at www.mass.gov/legis.
 - Nutrition – Representative Benson reported that the nutrition bill passed the House last week. It established further guidelines on what can be sold in a la carte lines in schools and when items can/cannot be sold. The bill matches federal guidelines. It still needs to get through the Senate. Lunenburg is already well positioned with its wellness policy.

- Regionalization – Representative Benson reported that legislation should be introduced this spring to put forward a more organized process of looking at regionalizing for schools. She expressed her frustration on how things have gone to date. Superintendent Calmes and the school committee thanked Representative Benson for attending tonight’s meeting.
- Superintendent Calmes announced the result of the drive for Haitian Relief; the donation of \$3,959.33 from faculty and students has been sent to the Red Cross. The superintendent also reported on the monthly food bank collections at the schools and Brooks House.
- A joint budget meeting is planned for February 25 at 7:00 p.m., with a presentation by CAFO Kerry Speidel.
- The Massachusetts School Building Authority has extended an offer to bring some of their construction resources onsite to Lunenburg and North Middlesex to answer questions and talk about where we’re at in terms of our work around the possibility of regionalization. We are looking at the week of winter break and the following week. The MSBA will respond to what works for us – possibly February 22 or 23.

* Public Comment – None.

* New Business
Discussion

- a. FY11 Budget - Superintendent’s Recommendation - Superintendent Calmes indicated that a recommended budget for FY11 is not yet complete. We still do not know what our revenue will be with our non-resident agreement. We will need to look at our food service program, bussing, and fees for activities. Preserving opportunities for students is what we need to bring to the community. The deficit we will see based on the presumption of level funding will be half a million dollars or higher. We have looked at the enrollment projection for next year and anticipate reducing about two classrooms of students, assuming no freshmen from Shirley under the non-resident agreement. New choice numbers have not yet been determined. Superintendent Calmes reviewed the number of sections in each grade for next year. Currently, we have 71 incoming choice students and we anticipate approximately 64 returning. We also expect 61 Shirley students remaining with Lunenburg in grades 10-12. Superintendent Calmes provided some information that she received at a superintendent’s workshop recently around revenues, taxes, expenditures, etc. for Massachusetts. The document will be posted at the website.

* Old Business
Discussion

- a. North Middlesex Regional School District – Superintendent Calmes gave an overview of some of the new information that has been gathered in terms of possibly regionalizing with North Middlesex. Due to the absence of Mr. Poitras and Mr. Mackin, the committee chose not to get into the various details. The information will be posted on our website for the community to look at. There is a comparison document of the many aspects of North Middlesex and Lunenburg. Superintendent Calmes listed some of the areas that were compared, i.e. enrollment numbers, school choice numbers, and special education.

* Public Comment

- Maryellen McKenna asked about the MSBA meeting that was attended by Superintendent Calmes, Ms. White and Mr. Londa. The superintendent responded that the purpose of the meeting was to become familiar with MSBA resources, procurement regulations, construction manager at risk and traditional design programs, bid and build construction regulations, and what the differences are. There is incentive to use the Construction Manager at risk. The PowerPoint presentation will be provided at the MSBA website.
- A member of the audience inquired as to whether or not we have received the census data the MSBA is looking for. Superintendent Calmes responded that the biggest piece for us is looking at reconfiguration of grade levels. We will have workgroups set up to look at a

grades 3 through 8 configuration and a middle/high school configuration. There is not a set deadline to get this information to the MSBA; we'll submit it when we have it ready. We are waiting for the census data from Town Hall. We also need to get the number of teachers in the salary cells from North Middlesex.

* Reports

a. Students

- Ms. Broden agreed with a comment by Dr. Reif that sometimes there is an issue with running out of food during third lunch.
- LHS Student Council put together survival kits for Haiti.
- Second semester started Monday.
- Report cards come out on Friday.

b. Advisory Committee

c. Finance Committee

d. School Councils

e. PTO

f. Policy Sub-Committee

g. Capital Planning Committee

h. Health Advisory Committee

i. PAC/SAL

j. Regional Planning Committee

k. Rep. Benson's Advisory

l. Other – The Calendar Committee has had one meeting to date. They are looking at making some possible changes around parent teacher conferences. These changes would be piloted next year.

* Continuing Projects/Estimated Date of Completion

- complete foreign exchange student policy discussion
- opt-out discussion
- bus transportation
- discussion around head injury protocol

* Items for Future Discussion

- Workshop Sessions
- Facilities Use Procedure
- Civic Engagement

* Executive Session – None.

* Adjournment – At 8:31 p.m. Ms. Keeling moved and Dr. Reif seconded a motion to adjourn regular session. Vote: unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Landi
Recording Secretary

c/5/21/18/mel